

*Board of Trustees of the Upper Sandusky Community Library*

*Minutes*

*April 19, 2023*

The Upper Sandusky Community Library Board of Trustees convened on Wednesday, April 19, at 12:00 p.m. in the Library Board Room with the following members present: Ms. Jenny Romich, Mr. Todd Leightey, Mr. Brian Kimmel and Ms. Ann Kemerley. Ms. Amy Aldridge-Ritchey, Ms. Dianne Grafmiller and Ms. Laurie Scheck were absent. Director Kathleen Whitt and Teresa Scott of the *Daily Chief-Union* were also present, as well as Wes Campbell of Structured Employee Benefits of Ohio (SEBO).

President Jenny Romich asked for public comments. Hearing none, Ms. Romich asked if there were corrections or additions to the distributed minutes of the March meeting. Hearing none, Ms. Romich declared that the minutes stand as distributed.

Next on the agenda was a motion to ratify the payment of the bills. Ms. Romich asked if there were any questions about the bills. Ms. Kemerley asked about a receipt of \$7,995 from Modern Office Methods. Ms. Whitt responded that this was to buy out the lease of the Xerox copier from US Bank; the copier was replaced with a Ricoh from Modern Office Methods. Hearing no further questions, the motion was made and seconded to ratify the payment of bills; in a roll call vote, all present approved the bills.

Under old business, the board discussed the renewal of the property and liability insurance. Ms. Whitt said she asked a number of local insurance agents to submit quotes, and found that the Ohio Plan policy through Rinehart, Walters and Danner in Mansfield, is still the most cost effective and seems to be best suited for our specific needs, since Ohio Plan specializes in libraries and other governmental organizations. It was moved and seconded to renew the Ohio Plan property and liability insurance policy; in a roll call vote, all present approved the motion.

In connection with spring cleanup of the library grounds, Ms. Whitt submitted quotes from Carmar Gardens and RK Landscape and Design. The RK quote was nearly twice the amount of the one from Carmar. Board members said it doesn't look like additional mulch is needed at this time. It was mentioned that it might be possible to have students do weeding and litter pickup for community service, and have a contractor trim the bushes. Mr. Kimmel will continue to look into the community service aspect, and Ms. Whitt will request a quote from Carmar for the trimming.

Under new business, Mr. Wes Campbell of SEBO presented options for the staff health insurance renewal. A direct renewal of the current policy would entail a 41.5% increase in premiums. Mr. Campbell said no other carrier was able to make a better offer. Instead, he proposed the library consider a policy with a higher deductible (\$6,000 instead of the current \$3,500), with the library to reimburse staff for the difference (a health reimbursement agreement). Mr. Campbell said a number of Ohio libraries have been successfully using health reimbursement agreements for many years. Even if all insured staff met the \$6,000 deductible (extremely unlikely), the cost to the library would still be less than renewing the current plan, since the premium is less than 5% over the current amount; copays will remain the same, except for emergency room visits. It was moved and seconded to accept the Anthem SOCA MEWA 6000 plan, with the library to accept liability for the \$2,500 per person difference in deductible; in a roll call vote, all present approved the motion.

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Ms. Whitt then submitted a quote from Johnson Controls to perform sensitivity testing of the fire alarm system. This has never been done. It was moved and seconded to accept the quote; in a roll call vote, all present approved the motion.

Next on the agenda was a quote from Precision Concrete to grind down uneven places in the sidewalks around the library. These present a tripping hazard and have resulted in falls. It was moved and seconded to accept the quote; in a roll call vote, all present approved the motion.

The last item on the agenda was consideration of expenses to permit staff to attend the Cincinnati Upstander Awards, where one of their number has been nominated as a finalist (details are in the Director's Report below). Events include a Finalist Reveal Breakfast on Tuesday, May 16, and the Gala Awards Ceremony on Sunday, June 11. Cost for the three staff members responsible for the efforts leading to the nomination to attend the breakfast with one guest each would be about \$360. Cost for these individuals plus the rest of the staff to attend the awards ceremony would be about \$4,400, including tickets, one night at a hotel, and mileage reimbursement. The Board agreed that it is important to support this, and suggested that the Friends of the Library might like to do so as well. It was moved and seconded to approve up to \$400 for Patti Davidson, Rachel Keirns-Moore and Krystal Smalley and their guests to attend the finalist reveal breakfast. In a roll call vote, all present approved the motion. Ms. Whitt will approach the Friends of the Library to ask if they will help pay for staff to attend the awards ceremony in June and find out how many of the staff want to attend; she will report back to the board next month to give an updated estimate on the amount needed for the awards ceremony.

In the Director's Report, Ms. Whitt reported that:

1. April programming includes an interactive movie event for adults and teens featuring "Jurassic Park". We also will hold our popular plant swap, with a presentation on organic fruits and vegetables by Joyce Clinger of The Edible Landscapes.
2. In keeping with our gardening theme, April's STEAMPunks and That Thursday Thing participants created their own "chia pets."
3. I have replied to Peterman Associates with the changes for the elevator upgrade contract, and he has forwarded it to Davis & Newcomer for their approval.
4. The "panic buttons" permitting staff to send a silent emergency alarm call to the police department were installed on April 4.
5. HB 1 is a bill currently under consideration in the Ohio legislature that would make significant changes to Ohio's tax structure by introducing a flat state income tax of 2.75%. At this point it is estimated that this income tax cut would be at least \$1.5 billion. Additionally, the proposal is seeking to eliminate the 10% rollback at the local level coupled with a reduction in the local assessment percentage on Class 1 and 2 property from 35% to 31.5%. Property tax rollback payments are made from the state to local governments to reimburse revenue lost due to property tax relief programs granted by the state. These suggested changes would have a significant impact on the State's General Revenue Fund as well as local revenue generated by local levies, and thus on all of Ohio's libraries.
6. Last month I reported that Krystal Smalley had been asked by the Holocaust & Humanity Center to attend their March board meeting via Zoom to share the story of our Holocaust remembrance display and program, and how the Center's resources helped us. She gave them

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a brief timeline of events, the feelings expressed by the community over the revelations, and their reactions to holocaust survivor Henry Fenichel's presentation at the library via Zoom. On March 27, Krystal was notified by the Center that she had been selected out of hundreds of applicants as one of twenty finalists for the Cincinnati Upstander Awards. The message stated, "You exemplify what it means to be an upstander – an individual who harnesses their character strengths to meet their moment and pursue justice, both great and small, inspiring others to do the same." While the Center names Krystal as the finalist, she being the person in contact with them, the entire Holocaust remembrance display and program was a team effort by Patti Davidson, Rachel Keirns-Moore and Krystal. She, together with her guests, are invited to attend an Upstander Reveal Breakfast on May 11; the Upstander Awards are to be announced at a ceremony on June 11 with award-winning journalist Katie Couric as master of ceremonies.

7. The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) posted the April 2023 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution of \$32,972,362 – which is \$538,225 (or – 1.61%) below ODT's original estimate that was issued in July 2022; and \$266,945 (or + 0.82%) more than ODT's updated estimate issued in December 2022. According to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), overall state tax receipts for the month of March came in about \$30.6 million (or + 1.6%) above estimates. So far, State Fiscal Year 2023 tax collections are more than \$800 million above estimates.

8. Memorial/Honor/Donations:

In memory of:

Joseph Sheaffer  
Ann Schuster  
Betty Romich

Donor(s):

Allen Newell  
Mark, Becky, Jenny & David Romich  
Jeff & Deb Amos  
Greg & Linda Wolf  
Raul & RoseMarie Amos

There were no Items Not on the Agenda.

Ms. Romich asked whether there were any additional items for discussion. Hearing none, the motion was made and seconded to adjourn; the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

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President

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Secretary